TCPAH Participates in 37th Annual International Symposium of PAMA

June 2019

A team of faculty and students from TCPAH showcased their research, educational, and clinical expertise during the 2019 PAMA symposium held at the UCLA Herb Alpert School of Music.

Nine TCPAH graduate students, including those pursuing the new Ph.D. music degree in Performing Arts Health presented their research findings as poster and plenary presentations.

These research studies ranged from investigations seeking to understanding perceptions of vocal onset among singers by Kourtney Austin to a Systematic review of performance anxiety by Nabeel Zuhdi and Meghan Taylor.

Eric Wallace presented preliminary data from his dissertation study of a yet-to-be labeled problem associated with disrupted breathing problems among brass players.

Two large scale epidemiologic studies designed to understand health problems among instrument-specific groups included a study of clarinetists by Kensley Behel, Meghan Taylor and Nabeel Zuhdi. The second epidemiologic study by Michael Davis and Nabeel Zuhdi focused on saxophonists.

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Kristen Sullivan presented a poster outlining an exciting new area of research focused on understanding occupational fatigue among performing artists.

Violist Daemin Kim presented groundbreaking research on performance problems among string players due to hyperhidrosis. DMA voice major Rachel Nyetam presented a workshop designed to encourage the application of health education theory in teaching public school fine arts students about performing arts health.

Dr. Sarah Dunbar who reported her findings from an investigation of facial muscle activation patterns across multiple woodwinds, was awarded the Outstanding Research Award by PAMA.

In line with the East meets West theme of the conference, Drs. Lee and Surve presented a workshop showcasing the use of eastern

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medicine techniques including acupuncture for treating performing arts musculoskeletal health problems.

One highlight of the conference was a performance by the entire TCPAH team of Jasmine Flower, an ancient Chinese folk song to honor the PAMA conference theme of “east meets west”. The performance featured an original arrangement by UNT Professor Rich Derosa and voice soloist Xiaoyue Liu. The group included former TCPAH doctoral student Dr. James Ford, PAMA board member Dr. Boni Rietveld, and TCPAH physician fellow, Dr. James Aston.

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